AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the sections of the specification as follows:

Page 1, line 4 to page 1, line 9.

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BACKGROUND ~~OF THE INVENTION~~

~~1. Field of the Invention~~

The present ~~invention~~ disclosure relates to the field of computer system manufacturing and computer system operations. More specifically, this ~~invention~~ disclosure relates to providing computer system security.

~~2. Description of Related Art~~

Page 4, line 9, to page 4, line 14.

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SUMMARY ~~OF THE INVENTION~~

In accordance with the present ~~invention~~ disclosure, a system and method is presented for preventing a computer system user from using the computer system or otherwise interfering with the computer system's operation during the POST procedure, unless a particular access procedure is performed.

Page 5, line 15 to page 5, line 27

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

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The present~~invention~~ disclosure may be better understood, and its numerous objects, features and advantages made apparent to those skilled in the art by referencing the accompanying drawings. The use of the same reference number throughout the several figures designates a like or similar element.

Figure 1 shows a block diagram of an exemplary computer system.

Figure 2 shows a flow chart of the execution of a basic input/output system ("BIOS"), including a power-on self test ("POST") procedure.

Figure 3 shows a flow chart of ~~an~~ one embodiment~~ of the invention~~.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The following sets forth a detailed description of a mode for carrying out the ~~invention~~disclosure. The description is intended to be illustrative of the invention and should not be taken to be limiting.

Page 7, line 11 to page 7, line 27.

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Figure 2 shows a flow chart of an exemplary technique for the execution of a basic input/output system ("BIOS"), including a POST procedure. It should be noted, however, that though the subject ~~invention~~ disclosure is useful in the context of BIOS execution, and particularly POST, specific aspects of BIOS, or POST, are not part of the a4 con't

invention. The ~~invention~~ disclosure is applicable to various versions of BIOS or POST performance. After the system's power is switched on (step 210), the BIOS code 201 begins to execute, providing for the preparation of computer system 100 for use (step 220). Some or all of the BIOS procedure is generally also executed if computer system 100 is re-booted without the power being switched off and then on again, but this feature is not shown in Figure 2. Execution of the BIOS procedure generally includes the execution of a POST procedure (step 230). The POST procedure is a set of routines that tests the components of computer system 100 for proper connection and operation. If the POST finds a problem, computer system 100 generally alerts the user via aural and/or visual messages (steps 240 and 245). If the POST is successful, the BIOS procedure continues, passing control to a bootstrap loader (steps 240 and 250). If the problem is not critical to the operation of computer system 100, the BIOS procedure continues (steps 247 and 250). If the problem is critical to the operation of computer system 100, the BIOS procedure terminates (steps 247 and 255).

Page 8, line 4 to page 8, line 12.

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Figure 3 shows a flow chart of an embodiment of the ~~invention~~ disclosure. The ~~invention~~ disclosure presented advantageously allows a secure boot to operate in connection with devices other than an I/O controller (an example of which is illustrated in Figure 1, the LPC super I/O controller 187), the other devices including, for example, Small Computer Systems Interface ("SCSI") cards. Processor 110 is initially instructed to ignore all inputs except for a pre-selected input (step 310). In an aspect of this embodiment, processor 110 is initially instructed to ignore all inputs except for a pre-selected input from all I/O devices included in or coupled to computer system 100, including I/O devices coupled to computer system 100 remotely via, e.g., telephone circuits, intranets, local area networks, and the Internet.

Page 9, line 30 to page 10, line 18.

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The specific choice of inputs allowed to be processed by processor 110 as a result of the steps depicted in Figure 3, such inputs allowing specific functions to be performed by an authorized user, is a matter for the suppliers of an embodiment of the method and system of computer security during the POST procedure presented. Accordingly, any specific set of such allowed inputs is within the scope of the present ~~invention~~disclosure. In an embodiment, an authorized user enters a password (in one aspect, within a pre-defined period of time) to gain access to the procedure that allows enablement and disablement and, once access is granted, enables or disables the method or system of computer security presented. In an aspect of the embodiment, the user who enables computer security is allowed to select the functions to which an authorized user completes the steps depicted in Figure 3. These functions include, but are not limited to, those functions discussed above in connection with Figure 2: prevention of entry into system setup and of ability the change system settings; prevention of ability to request special boot functions, such as utility partition booting; prevention of ability to halt or omit POST functions; prevention of ability to reboot computer system 100 (sometimes referred to as "soft reset"); prevention of ability to switch off power to computer system 100 (short of physically disconnecting computer system 100 from its power supply, such as by unplugging computer system 100 from its alternating current power supply); and prevention of entry by an unauthorized user into OPROM utilities for SCSI, and/or RAID controllers, and/or NICs and/or virtual controllers that emulate controllers normally found within example computer system 100.

Page 11, line 1 to page 11, line 7.

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While particular embodiments of the present ~~invention~~ disclosure have been shown and described, it will be obvious to those skilled in the art that, based upon the a1 con't

teaching herein, changes and modifications may be made without departing from this ~~invention~~ disclosure and its broader aspects and, therefore, the appended claims are to encompass within their scope all such changes and modifications as are within the true spirit and scope of this ~~invention~~ disclosure. Furthermore, it is to be understood that the ~~invention~~ disclosure is solely defined by the appended claims.